



General Assembly

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2013

*[on the report of the Third Committee (A/68/456/Add 1)]***68/156. Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment***The General Assembly,**Reaffirming* that no one shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,*Recalling* that freedom from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is a non-derogable right under international law, including international human rights law and international humanitarian law, that must be respected and protected under all circumstances, including in times of international or internal armed conflict or disturbance or any other public emergency, that the absolute prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is affirmed in relevant international instruments and that legal and procedural safeguards against such acts must not be subject to measures that would circumvent this right,*Recalling also* that the prohibition of torture is a peremptory norm of international law and that international, regional and domestic courts have recognized the prohibition of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment as customary international law,*Recalling further* the definition of torture contained in article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,¹ without prejudice to any international instrument or national legislation which contains or may contain provisions of wider application,*Recognizing* that redress depends upon and is obtained through prompt, effective and impartial investigations of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and acknowledgement of the violations, and that the provision of redress has an inherent preventive and deterrent effect in relation to future violations,¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1465, No. 24841.

Emphasizing the importance of properly interpreting and implementing the obligations of States with respect to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and of abiding strictly by the definition of torture contained in article 1 of the Convention,

Noting that, under the Geneva Conventions of 1949,² torture and inhuman treatment are a grave breach and that, under the statute of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, the statute of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,³ acts of torture can constitute crimes against humanity and, when committed in a situation of armed conflict, constitute war crimes,

Recognizing the importance of the implementation of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,⁴ which makes a significant contribution to the prevention and prohibition of torture, including by prohibiting secret places of detention and by ensuring legal and procedural safeguards for persons deprived of their liberty, and encouraging all States that have not done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Convention,

Commending the persistent efforts of civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions and national preventive mechanisms, and the considerable network of centres for the rehabilitation of victims of torture, to prevent and combat torture and to alleviate the suffering of victims of torture,

Deeply concerned about all acts which can amount to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment committed against persons exercising their rights of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression in all regions of the world,

1. *Condemns* all forms of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including through intimidation, which are and shall remain prohibited at any time and in any place whatsoever and can thus never be justified, and calls upon all States to implement fully the absolute and non-derogable prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

2. *Emphasizes* that States must take persistent, determined and effective measures to prevent and combat all acts of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, stresses that all acts of torture must be made offences under domestic criminal law punishable by appropriate penalties that take into account their grave nature, and calls upon States to prohibit under domestic law acts constituting cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

² Ibid., vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

³ Ibid., vol. 2187, No. 38544.

⁴ Resolution 61/177, annex.

3. *Welcomes* the establishment of national preventive mechanisms to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, urges States to consider establishing, appointing, maintaining or enhancing independent and effective mechanisms that have experts with the required capabilities and professional knowledge to undertake monitoring visits to places of detention, inter alia, with a view to preventing acts of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and calls upon States parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment⁵ to fulfil their obligation to designate or establish national preventive mechanisms that are truly independent, properly resourced and effective;

4. *Emphasizes* the importance of States ensuring proper follow-up to the recommendations and conclusions of the relevant treaty bodies and mechanisms, including the Committee against Torture, the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, national preventive mechanisms and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, while recognizing the important role of the universal periodic review, national human rights institutions and other relevant national or regional bodies in preventing torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

5. *Condemns* any action or attempt by States or public officials to legalize, authorize or acquiesce in torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment under any circumstances, including on grounds of national security and counter-terrorism or through judicial decisions, and urges States to ensure accountability of those responsible for all such acts;

6. *Encourages* States to consider establishing or maintaining appropriate national processes to record allegations of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and to ensure that such information is accessible in accordance with applicable law;

7. *Stresses* that an independent, competent domestic authority must promptly, effectively and impartially investigate all allegations of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, as well as wherever there is reasonable ground to believe that such an act has been committed, and that those who encourage, instigate, order, tolerate, acquiesce in, consent to or perpetrate such acts must be held responsible, brought to justice and punished in a manner commensurate with the severity of the offence, including the officials in charge of any place of detention or other place where persons are deprived of their liberty where the prohibited act is found to have been committed;

8. *Recalls*, in this respect, the Principles on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (the Istanbul Principles)⁶ as a valuable tool in efforts to prevent and combat torture and the updated set of principles for the protection and promotion of human rights through action to combat impunity;⁷

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2375, No. 24841.

⁶ Resolution 55/89, annex.

⁷ See E/CN.4/2005/102/Add.1.

9. *Calls upon* all States to implement effective measures to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, particularly in places of detention and other places where persons are deprived of their liberty, including legal and procedural safeguards, as well as education and training of personnel who may be involved in the custody, interrogation or treatment of any individual subjected to any form of arrest, detention or imprisonment;

10. *Urges* States, as an important element in preventing and combating torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, to ensure that no authority or official orders, applies, permits or tolerates any sanction, reprisal, intimidation or other prejudice against any person, group or association, including persons deprived of their liberty, for contacting, seeking to contact or having been in contact with any national or international monitoring or preventive body active in the prevention and combating of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

11. *Also urges* States to ensure accountability for any act of sanction, reprisal, intimidation or other form of unlawful prejudicial conduct against any person, group or association, including persons deprived of their liberty, for cooperating, seeking to cooperate or having cooperated with any national or international monitoring or preventive body active in the prevention and combating of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment by ensuring impartial, prompt, independent and thorough investigations of any alleged act of sanction, reprisal, intimidation or other form of unlawful prejudicial conduct; to bring the perpetrators to justice; to provide access to effective remedies for victims, in accordance with their international human rights obligations and commitments; and to prevent any recurrence;

12. *Calls upon* all States to adopt a victim-oriented approach⁸ in the fight against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, paying special attention to the views and needs of victims in policy development and other activities relating to rehabilitation, prevention and accountability for torture;

13. *Also calls upon* all States to adopt a gender-sensitive approach in the fight against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, paying special attention to gender-based violence;

14. *Calls upon* States to ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities, bearing in mind the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,⁹ are fully integrated into torture prevention and protection, and welcomes the efforts of the Special Rapporteur in this regard;

15. *Encourages* all States to ensure that persons convicted of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment have no subsequent involvement in the custody, interrogation or treatment of any person under arrest, detention, imprisonment or other deprivation of liberty and that persons charged with torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment have no involvement in the custody, interrogation or treatment of any person under arrest, detention, imprisonment or other deprivation of liberty while such charges are pending;

⁸ See A/HRC/16/52.

⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

16. *Emphasizes* that acts of torture in armed conflict are serious violations of international humanitarian law and in this regard constitute war crimes, that acts of torture can constitute crimes against humanity and that the perpetrators of all acts of torture must be prosecuted and punished, and in this regard notes the efforts of the International Criminal Court to end impunity by seeking to ensure accountability and punishment of perpetrators of such acts, in accordance with the Rome Statute,³ bearing in mind its principle of complementarity, and encourages States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Rome Statute;

17. *Strongly urges* States to ensure that no statement that is established to have been made as a result of torture is invoked as evidence in any proceedings, except against a person accused of torture as evidence that the statement was made, encourages States to extend that prohibition to statements made as a result of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and recognizes that adequate corroboration of statements, including confessions, used as evidence in any proceedings constitutes one safeguard for the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

18. *Stresses* that States must not punish personnel for not obeying orders to commit or conceal acts amounting to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

19. *Urges* States not to expel, return ("refouler"), extradite or in any other way transfer a person to another State where there are substantial grounds for believing that the person would be in danger of being subjected to torture, stresses the importance of effective legal and procedural safeguards in this regard, and recognizes that diplomatic assurances, where given, do not release States from their obligations under international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law, in particular the principle of non-refoulement;

20. *Recalls* that, for the purpose of determining whether there are such grounds, the competent authorities shall take into account all relevant considerations, including, where applicable, the existence in the State concerned of a consistent pattern of gross, flagrant or mass violations of human rights;

21. *Calls upon* States parties to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment¹ to fulfil their obligation to submit for prosecution or extradite those alleged to have committed acts of torture, and encourages other States to do likewise, bearing in mind the need to fight impunity;

22. *Stresses* that national legal systems must ensure that victims of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment have effective access to justice and obtain redress without suffering any retribution for bringing complaints or giving evidence;

23. *Calls upon* States to provide redress for victims of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, encompassing effective remedy and adequate, effective and prompt reparation, which should include restitution, fair and adequate compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition, taking into full account the specific needs of the victim;

24. *Urges* States to ensure that appropriate rehabilitation services are promptly available to all victims without discrimination of any kind and without limitation in time until the fullest rehabilitation possible is achieved, provided either directly by the public health system or through the funding of private rehabilitation facilities, including those administered by civil society organizations, and to

consider making rehabilitation available to the immediate family or dependants of the victim and persons who have suffered harm in intervening to assist victims in distress or to prevent victimization;

25. *Also urges* States to establish, maintain, facilitate or support rehabilitation centres or facilities where victims can receive such treatment and where effective measures for ensuring the safety of their staff and patients are taken;

26. *Recalls* its resolution 43/173 of 9 December 1988 on the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment, and in this context stresses that ensuring that any individual arrested or detained is promptly brought before a judge or other independent judicial officer in person and permitting prompt and regular medical care and legal counsel throughout all stages of detention, as well as visits by family members and independent monitoring mechanisms, are effective measures for the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

27. *Reminds* all States that prolonged incommunicado detention or detention in secret places can facilitate the perpetration of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and can in itself constitute a form of such treatment, and urges all States to respect the safeguards concerning the liberty, security and dignity of the person and to ensure that secret places of detention and interrogation are abolished;

28. *Emphasizes* that conditions of detention must respect the dignity and human rights of persons deprived of their liberty, highlights the importance of reflecting on this in efforts to promote respect for and protection of the rights of persons deprived of their liberty, calls upon States to address and prevent detention conditions that amount to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and notes in this regard concerns about solitary confinement, which may amount to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

29. *Encourages* States to take effective measures to address overcrowding in detention facilities, which may impact the dignity and human rights of persons deprived of their liberty, including through enhancing the use of alternatives to pretrial detention and custodial sentences and reducing pretrial detention, by, inter alia, adopting and effectively implementing both new and existing legislative and administrative measures and policies on its preconditions, limitations, duration and alternatives and by taking measures aimed at the implementation of existing legislation, as well as by ensuring access to justice and legal advice and assistance, and invites States to make use of technical assistance offered by the relevant United Nations entities and programmes in order to strengthen national capacities and infrastructures in this regard;

30. *Calls upon* all States to take appropriate effective legislative, administrative, judicial and other measures to prevent and prohibit the production, trade, export, import and use of equipment that has no practical use other than for the purpose of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

31. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention and to give early consideration to signing and ratifying the Optional Protocol thereto as a matter of priority;

32. *Urges* all States parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to make the declarations provided for in articles 21 and 22 of the Convention

concerning inter-State and individual communications, to consider the possibility of withdrawing their reservations to article 20 and to notify the Secretary-General of their acceptance of the amendments to articles 17 and 18, with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of the Committee as soon as possible;

33. *Urges* States parties to comply strictly with their obligations under the Convention, including, in view of the high number of reports not submitted in time, their obligation to submit reports in accordance with article 19 of the Convention, and invites States parties to incorporate a gender perspective and information concerning children and juveniles and persons with disabilities when submitting reports to the Committee;

34. *Welcomes* the work of the Committee and of the Subcommittee and their reports, recommends that they continue to include information on the follow-up by States parties to their recommendations, and supports the Committee and the Subcommittee in their efforts to further improve the effectiveness of their working methods;

35. *Invites* the Chairs of the Committee and the Subcommittee to present oral reports on the work of the committees and to engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth and seventieth sessions under the sub-item entitled "Implementation of human rights instruments" of the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights";

36. *Calls upon* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in conformity with her mandate established by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, to continue to provide, at the request of States, advisory services for the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including for the preparation of national reports to the Committee and for the establishment and operation of national preventive mechanisms, as well as technical assistance for the development, production and distribution of teaching material for this purpose, and to provide the support necessary to enable the Subcommittee to provide advice and assistance to States parties to the Optional Protocol;

37. *Welcomes* the interim report of the Special Rapporteur,¹⁰ and encourages him to continue to include in his recommendations proposals on the prevention and investigation of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including its gender-based manifestations;

38. *Notes* the work of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group on the revision of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners,¹¹ reiterating that any changes should not lower any existing standards but should improve them so that they reflect recent advances in correctional science and best practices as well as international human rights obligations and commitments, and in this regard acknowledges that the expert group can benefit from the expertise of United Nations entities and other relevant stakeholders;

39. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to continue to consider including in his report information on the follow-up by States to his recommendations, visits and

¹⁰ A/68/295.

¹¹ *Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments*, Volume I (First Part), *Universal Instruments* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.XIV.4 (Vol. I, Part 1)), sect. J, No. 34.

communications, including progress made and problems encountered, and on other official contacts;

40. *Calls upon* all States to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur in the performance of his task, to supply all necessary information requested by the Special Rapporteur, to fully and expeditiously respond to and follow up on his urgent appeals, to give serious consideration to responding favourably to requests by the Special Rapporteur to visit their countries and to enter into a constructive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on requested visits to their countries as well as with respect to the follow-up to his recommendations;

41. *Stresses* the need for the continued regular exchange of views among the Committee, the Subcommittee, the Special Rapporteur and other relevant United Nations mechanisms and bodies, as well as for the pursuance of cooperation with relevant United Nations programmes, notably the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, with regional organizations and mechanisms, as appropriate, and with civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations, with a view to enhancing further their effectiveness and cooperation on issues relating to the prevention and eradication of torture, inter alia, by improving their coordination;

42. *Recognizes* the global need for international assistance to victims of torture, stresses the importance of the work of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, appeals to all States and organizations to contribute annually to the Fund, preferably with a substantial increase in the level of contributions, welcomes the establishment of and encourages contributions to the Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol to support the implementation of the recommendations made by the Subcommittee as well as education programmes of the national preventive mechanisms;

43. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to transmit to all States the appeals of the General Assembly for contributions to the Funds and to include the Funds, on an annual basis, among the programmes for which funds are pledged at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities;

44. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Human Rights Council, and to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth and seventieth sessions, a report on the operations of the Funds;

45. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, within the overall budgetary framework of the United Nations, the provision of adequate staff and facilities for the bodies and mechanisms involved in preventing and combating torture and assisting victims of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including, in particular, the Committee, the Subcommittee and the Special Rapporteur, commensurate with the strong support expressed by Member States for preventing and combating torture and assisting victims of torture, in order to enable them to discharge their mandates in a comprehensive, sustained and effective manner and taking fully into account the specific nature of their mandates;

46. *Calls upon* all States, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other United Nations bodies and agencies, as well as relevant intergovernmental and civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to commemorate, on 26 June, the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture;

47. *Decides* to consider at its sixty-ninth and seventieth sessions the reports of the Secretary-General, including the report on the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and the Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol, the report of the Committee, the report of the Subcommittee and the interim report of the Special Rapporteur;

48. *Also decides* to give its full consideration to the subject matter at its seventieth session.

*70th plenary meeting
18 December 2013*



General Assembly

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2013

*[on the report of the Third Committee (A/68/456/Add.2)]***68/157. The human right to safe drinking water and sanitation***The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolution 64/292 of 28 July 2010, in which it recognized the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights,

Reaffirming the previous resolutions of the Human Rights Council regarding the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, inter alia, Council resolution 24/18 of 27 September 2013,¹

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,² the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,³ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,³ the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,⁴ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁵ the Convention on the Rights of the Child⁶ and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,⁷

Reaffirming its commitments to human rights as expressed in its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, entitled "United Nations Millennium Declaration", and its follow-up resolutions 60/1 of 16 September 2005, entitled "2005 World Summit Outcome", and 65/1 of 22 September 2010, entitled "Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals",

Reaffirming also its resolutions 58/217 of 23 December 2003, by which it proclaimed the period from 2005 to 2015 the International Decade for Action,

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/68/53/Add.1)*, chap III.

² Resolution 217 A (III).

³ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

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“Water for Life”, and 65/154 of 20 December 2010, by which it declared 2013 the International Year of Water Cooperation,

Recalling the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development of June 1992⁸ and its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, entitled “The future we want”, and emphasizing the critical importance of water and sanitation within the three dimensions of sustainable development,

Welcoming the holding of the plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the human right to water and sanitation, on 27 July 2011,

Welcoming also the designation of 19 November as World Toilet Day, in the context of Sanitation for All, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/291 of 24 July 2013,

Recalling general comment No. 15 (2002) of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the right to water (articles 11 and 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights),⁹ and the statement on the right to sanitation of the Committee of 19 November 2010,¹⁰ as well as the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation,

Deeply concerned that approximately 768 million people still lack access to improved drinking water sources and that more than 2.5 billion do not have access to improved sanitation facilities, including more than 1.04 billion people who still practice open defecation, as defined by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children’s Fund in their 2013 update on the Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation,¹¹ and that these figures do not fully capture the dimensions of water safety, the affordability of services and the safe management of excreta and wastewater, as well as equality, non-discrimination and differences between urban and rural areas, and therefore underestimate the numbers of those without access to safe drinking water and sanitation,

Noting that the target of the Millennium Development Goals of halving, by 2015, the proportion of people without access to improved sources of water was formally met five years ahead of schedule, and deeply concerned that the world remains off track to meet the sanitation component of the same target, which called for halving the proportion of the population without sustainable access to an improved sanitation facility, that by 2015, if current trends continue, the world is set to miss the target by more than half a billion people, and that inexistent or inadequate sanitation facilities and serious deficiencies in water management and wastewater treatment can have a negative impact on water provision and sustainable access to safe drinking water,

Deeply concerned that women and girls often face particular barriers in accessing water and sanitation and that they shoulder the main burden of collecting

⁸ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution I, annex I.

⁹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 2 (E/2003/22)*, annex IV.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 2011, *Supplement No. 2 (E/2011/22)*, annex VI.

¹¹ World Health Organization/United Nations Children’s Fund Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation, *Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water: 2013 Update* (Geneva, 2013).

household water in many parts of the world, restricting their time for other activities,

Deeply alarmed that, every year, almost 700,000 children under 5 years of age die, and millions of schooldays are lost, as a result of water- and sanitation-related diseases, and that girls in many parts of the world do not go to school as a result of the lack of separate toilets for girls,

Reaffirming the responsibility of States to ensure the promotion and protection of all human rights, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and must be treated globally, in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

Recalling that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living and is inextricably related to the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, as well as to the right to life and human dignity,

Acknowledging the importance of equal access to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as an integral component of the realization of all human rights,

1. *Reaffirms* the recognition of the right to safe drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights;

2. *Recognizes* the need to give due consideration to the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda, in particular while defining concrete goals, targets and indicators, taking into account an approach that supports the promotion and protection of human rights;

3. *Welcomes* the extension of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation by the Human Rights Council;¹

4. *Also welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, and takes note with appreciation in particular of her reports¹² and her contributions to shaping the post-2015 development agenda and to progressively eliminating inequalities in access to safe drinking water and sanitation;

5. *Takes note* of the recommendation in the report of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda,¹³ commissioned by the Secretary-General, in which the Panel lists water and sanitation among the illustrative goals in the post-2015 development agenda, and also takes note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015",¹⁴ in which the Secretary-General recognizes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation as one of the foundations for a decent life;

6. *Calls upon* States:

¹² A/67/270 and A/68/264.

¹³ See A/67/890, annex.

¹⁴ A/68/202 and Corr. 1.

(a) To ensure the progressive realization of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation;

(b) To continuously monitor and regularly analyse the status of the realization of the human right to safe drinking water;

(c) To give due consideration to the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation and the principles of equality and non-discrimination in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

(d) To ensure the progressive realization of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation for all in a non-discriminatory manner while eliminating inequalities in access, including for individuals belonging to vulnerable and marginalized groups, on the grounds of race, gender, age, disability, ethnicity, culture, religion and national or social origin or on any other grounds and with a view to progressively eliminating inequalities based on factors such as rural-urban disparities, residence in a slum, income levels and other relevant considerations;

(e) To consult with communities on adequate solutions to ensure sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation;

(f) To provide for effective accountability mechanisms for all water and sanitation service providers to ensure that they respect human rights and do not cause human rights violations or abuses;

7. *Invites* regional and international organizations to complement efforts by States to progressively realize the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation;

8. *Encourages* Member States to intensify global partnerships for development as means to achieve and sustain the targets of the Millennium Development Goals on water and sanitation;

9. *Reaffirms* that States have the primary responsibility to ensure the full realization of all human rights and to endeavour to take steps, individually and through international assistance and cooperation, especially economic and technical, to the maximum of their available resources, with a view to progressively achieving the full realization of the right to safe drinking water and sanitation by all appropriate means, including in particular the adoption of legislative measures;

10. *Stresses* the important role of the international cooperation and technical assistance provided by States, specialized agencies of the United Nations system and international and development partners, as well as by donor agencies, in particular in the timely achievement of the relevant Millennium Development Goals, and urges development partners to adopt a human rights-based approach when designing and implementing development programmes in support of national initiatives and plans of action related to the right to safe drinking water and sanitation;

11. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question at its sixty-ninth session.

*70th plenary meeting
18 December 2013*

Deeply concerned that the majority of indigenous peoples in the world live in conditions of poverty, and recognizing the critical need to address the negative impact of poverty and inequity on indigenous peoples by ensuring their full and effective inclusion in development and poverty eradication programmes,

Reaffirming the universality, indivisibility, interrelatedness, interdependence and mutually reinforcing nature of all civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, including the right to development,

Expressing deep concern over the lack of progress in the trade negotiations of the World Trade Organization, and reaffirming the need for a successful outcome of the Doha Development Round in key areas such as agriculture, market access for non-agricultural products, trade facilitation, development and services,

Recalling the outcome of the twelfth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Accra from 20 to 25 April 2008, on the theme "Addressing the opportunities and challenges of globalization for development",⁵

Recalling also all its previous resolutions, Human Rights Council resolution 21/32 of 28 September 2012,⁶ previous resolutions of the Council and those of the Commission on Human Rights on the right to development, in particular Commission resolution 1998/72 of 22 April 1998⁷ on the urgent need to make further progress towards the realization of the right to development as set out in the Declaration on the Right to Development,

Recalling further the outcome of the eleventh session of the Working Group on the Right to Development of the Human Rights Council, held in Geneva from 26 to 30 April 2010, as contained in the report of the Working Group⁸ and as referred to in the report of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,⁹

Recalling the Sixteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Tehran from 26 to 31 August 2012, and the previous summits and conferences at which the States members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries stressed the need to operationalize the right to development as a priority,

Reiterating its continuing support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development¹⁰ as a development framework for Africa,

Expressing its appreciation for the efforts of the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the Right to Development of the Human Rights Council and the members of the high-level task force on the implementation of the right to development in completing the 2008–2010 three-phase road map established by the Council in its resolution 4/4 of 30 March 2007,¹¹

⁵ See TD/442 and Corr.1 and 2.

⁶ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/67/53/Add.1), chap. III.

⁷ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

⁸ A/HRC/15/23.

⁹ A/HRC/15/24.

¹⁰ A/57/304, annex.

¹¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/62/53), chap. III, sect. A.

Deeply concerned about the negative impacts of the global economic and financial crises on the realization of the right to development,

Recognizing that, while development facilitates the enjoyment of all human rights, the lack of development may not be invoked to justify the abridgement of internationally recognized human rights,

Recognizing also that Member States should cooperate with each other in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development, that the international community should promote effective international cooperation for the realization of the right to development and the elimination of obstacles to development and that lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to development requires effective development policies at the national level, as well as equitable economic relations and a favourable economic environment at the international level,

Recognizing further that poverty is an affront to human dignity,

Recognizing that extreme poverty and hunger are one of the greatest global threats and require the collective commitment of the international community for its eradication, pursuant to Millennium Development Goal 1, and therefore calling upon the international community, including the Human Rights Council, to contribute towards achieving that goal,

Recognizing also that historical injustices have undeniably contributed to the poverty, underdevelopment, marginalization, social exclusion, economic disparity, instability and insecurity that affect many people in different parts of the world, in particular in developing countries,

Stressing that poverty eradication is one of the critical elements in the promotion and realization of the right to development and that poverty is a multifaceted problem that requires a multifaceted and integrated approach in addressing economic, political, social, environmental and institutional dimensions at all levels, especially in the context of the Millennium Development Goal of halving, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one United States dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

1. *Takes note* of the consolidated report of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,¹² which provides information on the activities undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights relating to the promotion and realization of the right to development;

2. *Recognizes* the significance of all the events held to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development,¹³ including the panel discussion on the theme "The way forward in the realization of the right to development: between policy and practice", held during the eighteenth session of the Human Rights Council;

3. *Supports* the realization of the mandate of the Working Group on the Right to Development, as renewed by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 9/3 of

¹² A/HRC/24/27.

¹³ Resolution 41/128, annex.

24 September 2008,¹⁴ with the recognition that the Working Group may convene annual sessions of five working days and submit its reports to the Council;

4. *Endorses* the recommendations adopted by the Working Group at its fourteenth session,¹⁵ and, while reaffirming them, calls for their immediate, full and effective implementation by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and other relevant actors, noting also the efforts under way within the framework of the Working Group with a view to completing the tasks entrusted to it by the Council in its resolution 4/4;¹¹

5. *Emphasizes* the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 establishing the Human Rights Council, and in this regard calls upon the Council to implement the agreement to continue to act to ensure that its agenda promotes and advances sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and also in this regard to lead to raising the right to development, as set out in paragraphs 5 and 10 of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,³ to the same level as and on a par with all other human rights and fundamental freedoms;

6. *Welcomes* the launching, in the Working Group, of the process for considering, revising and refining the draft right-to-development criteria and corresponding operational subcriteria,¹⁶ with the first reading of the draft criteria and operational subcriteria;

7. *Stresses* that the above-mentioned compilations of views, criteria and corresponding operational subcriteria, once considered, revised and endorsed by the Working Group, should be used, as appropriate, in the elaboration of a comprehensive and coherent set of standards for the implementation of the right to development;

8. *Emphasizes* the importance of the Working Group taking appropriate steps to ensure respect for and practical application of the above-mentioned standards, which could take various forms, including the elaboration of guidelines on the implementation of the right to development, and evolve into a basis for the consideration of an international legal standard of a binding nature through a collaborative process of engagement;

9. *Stresses* the importance of the core principles contained in the conclusions of the Working Group at its third session,¹⁷ congruent with the purpose of international human rights instruments, such as equality, non-discrimination, accountability, participation and international cooperation, as critical to mainstreaming the right to development at the national and international levels, and underlines the importance of the principles of equity and transparency;

10. *Also stresses* that it is important that the Chair-Rapporteur and the Working Group, in the discharge of their mandates, take into account the need:

(a) To promote the democratization of the system of international governance in order to increase the effective participation of developing countries in international decision-making;

¹⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/63/53/Add.1), chap. I.

¹⁵ A/HRC/24/37.

¹⁶ See A/HRC/15/WG.2/TF/2/Add.2.

¹⁷ See E/CN.4/2002/28/Rev.1, sect. VIII.A.

(b) To also promote effective partnerships such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development¹⁰ and other similar initiatives with the developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, for the purpose of the realization of their right to development, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

(c) To strive for greater acceptance, operationalization and realization of the right to development at the international level, while urging all States to undertake at the national level the necessary policy formulation and to institute the measures required for the implementation of the right to development as an integral part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and also urging all States to expand and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development in the context of promoting effective international cooperation for the realization of the right to development, bearing in mind that lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to development requires effective development policies at the national level and a favourable economic environment at the international level;

(d) To consider ways and means to continue to ensure the operationalization of the right to development as a priority;

(e) To mainstream the right to development in the policies and operational activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, funds and programmes, as well as in the policies and strategies of the international financial and multilateral trading systems, bearing in mind in this regard that the core principles of the international economic, commercial and financial spheres, such as equity, non-discrimination, transparency, accountability, participation and international cooperation, including effective partnerships for development, are indispensable in achieving the right to development and preventing discriminatory treatment arising from political or other non-economic considerations in addressing the issues of concern to the developing countries;

11. *Encourages* the Human Rights Council to continue considering how to ensure follow-up to the work of the former Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights on the right to development, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights and in compliance with decisions to be taken by the Council;

12. *Invites* Member States and all other stakeholders to participate actively in future sessions of the Social Forum, while recognizing the strong support extended to the Forum at its first four sessions by the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights;

13. *Reaffirms* the commitment to implement the goals and targets set out in all the outcome documents of the major United Nations conferences and summits and their review processes, in particular those relating to the realization of the right to development, recognizing that the realization of the right to development is critical to achieving the objectives, goals and targets set in those outcome documents;

14. *Also reaffirms* that the realization of the right to development is essential to the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which regards all human rights as universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, places the human person at the centre of development and recognizes that, while development facilitates the enjoyment of all human rights, lack of development may

not be invoked to justify the abridgement of internationally recognized human rights;

15. *Stresses* that the primary responsibility for the promotion and protection of all human rights lies with the State, and reaffirms that States have the primary responsibility for their own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized;

16. *Reaffirms* the primary responsibility of States to create national and international conditions favourable to the realization of the right to development, as well as their commitment to cooperate with each other to that end;

17. *Also reaffirms* the need for an international environment that is conducive to the realization of the right to development;

18. *Stresses* the need to strive for greater acceptance, operationalization and realization of the right to development at the international and national levels, and calls upon all States to institute the measures required for the implementation of the right to development as an integral part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

19. *Emphasizes* the critical importance of identifying and analysing obstacles impeding the full realization of the right to development at both the national and international levels;

20. *Affirms* that, while globalization offers both opportunities and challenges, the process of globalization remains deficient in achieving the objectives of integrating all countries into a globalized world, and stresses the need for policies and measures at the national and global levels to respond to the challenges and opportunities of globalization if this process is to be made fully inclusive and equitable;

21. *Recognizes* that, despite continuous efforts on the part of the international community, the gap between developed and developing countries remains unacceptably wide, that most of the developing countries continue to face difficulties in participating in the globalization process and that many risk being marginalized and effectively excluded from its benefits;

22. *Expresses its deep concern*, in this regard, about the negative impact on the realization of the right to development due to the further aggravation of the economic and social situation, in particular of developing countries, as a result of the ongoing international energy, food and financial crises, as well as the increasing challenges posed by global climate change and the loss of biodiversity, which have increased vulnerabilities and inequalities and have adversely affected development gains, in particular in developing countries;

23. *Underlines* the fact that the international community is far from meeting the target set in the United Nations Millennium Declaration⁴ of halving the number of people living in poverty by 2015, reaffirms the commitment made to meet that target, and emphasizes the principle of international cooperation, including partnership and commitment, between developed and developing countries towards achieving the goal;

24. *Urges* developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts towards meeting the targets of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.2 per cent of their gross national product to least developed countries, and encourages developing

countries to build on the progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help to meet development goals and targets;

25. *Recognizes* the need to address market access for developing countries, including in the sectors of agriculture, services and non-agricultural products, in particular those of interest to developing countries;

26. *Calls once again for* the implementation of a desirable pace of meaningful trade liberalization, including in areas under negotiation in the World Trade Organization, the implementation of commitments on implementation-related issues and concerns, a review of special and differential treatment provisions, with a view to strengthening them and making them more precise, effective and operational, the avoidance of new forms of protectionism, and capacity-building and technical assistance for developing countries as important issues in making progress towards the effective implementation of the right to development;

27. *Recognizes* the important link between the international economic, commercial and financial spheres and the realization of the right to development, stresses in this regard the need for good governance and for broadening the base of decision-making at the international level on issues of development concern and the need to fill organizational gaps, as well as to strengthen the United Nations system and other multilateral institutions, and also stresses the need to broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in international economic decision-making and norm-setting;

28. *Also recognizes* that good governance and the rule of law at the national level assist all States in the promotion and protection of human rights, including the right to development, and agrees on the value of the ongoing efforts being made by States to identify and strengthen good governance practices, including transparent, responsible, accountable and participatory government, that are responsive and appropriate to their needs and aspirations, including in the context of agreed partnership approaches to development, capacity-building and technical assistance;

29. *Further recognizes* the important role and the rights of women and the application of a gender perspective as a cross-cutting issue in the process of realizing the right to development, and notes in particular the positive relationship between the education of women and their equal participation in the civil, cultural, economic, political and social activities of the community and the promotion of the right to development;

30. *Stresses* the need for the integration of the rights of children, girls and boys alike, in all policies and programmes and for ensuring the promotion and protection of those rights, especially in areas relating to health, education and the full development of their capacities;

31. *Recalls* the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS, adopted on 10 June 2011 at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on HIV and AIDS,¹⁸ stresses that further and additional measures must be taken at the national and international levels to fight HIV and AIDS and other communicable diseases, taking into account ongoing efforts and programmes, and reiterates the need for international assistance in this regard;

¹⁸ Resolution 65/277, annex.

32. *Welcomes* the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, adopted on 19 September 2011,¹⁹ with its particular focus on development and other challenges and social and economic impacts, particularly for developing countries;

33. *Recalls* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",²⁰

34. *Also recalls* the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,²¹ which entered into force on 3 May 2008, and stresses the need to take into consideration the rights of persons with disabilities and the importance of international cooperation in support of national efforts in the realization of the right to development;

35. *Stresses its commitment* to indigenous peoples in the process of the realization of the right to development, reaffirms the commitment to promote their rights in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security, in accordance with recognized international human rights obligations and taking into account, as appropriate, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/295 of 13 September 2007, and in this regard looks forward to the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be held in 2014;

36. *Recognizes* the need for strong partnerships with civil society organizations and the private sector in pursuit of poverty eradication and development, as well as for corporate social responsibility;

37. *Emphasizes* the urgent need for taking concrete and effective measures to prevent, combat and criminalize all forms of corruption at all levels, to prevent, detect and deter in a more effective manner international transfers of illicitly acquired assets and to strengthen international cooperation in asset recovery, consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,²² particularly chapter V thereof, stresses the importance of a genuine political commitment on the part of all Governments through a firm legal framework, and in this context urges States to sign and ratify the Convention as soon as possible and States parties to implement it effectively;

38. *Also emphasizes* the need to strengthen further the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the promotion and realization of the right to development, including by ensuring effective use of the financial and human resources necessary to fulfil its mandate, and calls upon the Secretary-General to provide the Office of the High Commissioner with the necessary resources;

39. *Reaffirms* the request to the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in mainstreaming the right to development, to undertake effectively activities aimed at strengthening the global partnership for development among Member States, development agencies and the international development, financial and trade institutions and to reflect those activities in detail in her next report to the Human Rights Council;

¹⁹ Resolution 66/2, annex.

²⁰ Resolution 66/288, annex.

²¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

²² *Ibid.*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

40. *Calls upon* the United Nations funds and programmes, as well as the specialized agencies, to mainstream the right to development in their operational programmes and objectives, and stresses the need for the international financial and multilateral trading systems to mainstream the right to development in their policies and objectives;

41. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of Member States, United Nations organs and bodies, specialized agencies, funds and programmes, international development and financial institutions, in particular the Bretton Woods institutions, and non-governmental organizations;

42. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session and an interim report to the Human Rights Council on the implementation of the present resolution, including efforts undertaken at the national, regional and international levels in the promotion and realization of the right to development, and invites the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group to present an oral report and to engage in an interactive dialogue with the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session.

*70th plenary meeting
18 December 2013*



General Assembly

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Agenda item 69 (b)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2013

*[on the report of the Third Committee (A/68/456/Add.2)]***68/159. Human rights and cultural diversity***The General Assembly,*

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights² and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,² as well as other pertinent human rights instruments,

Recalling also its resolutions 54/160 of 17 December 1999, 55/91 of 4 December 2000, 57/204 of 18 December 2002, 58/167 of 22 December 2003, 60/167 of 16 December 2005, 62/155 of 18 December 2007, 64/174 of 18 December 2009 and 66/154 of 19 December 2011, and recalling further its resolutions 54/113 of 10 December 1999, 55/23 of 13 November 2000 and 60/4 of 20 October 2005 concerning the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations,

Noting that numerous instruments within the United Nations system promote cultural diversity, as well as the conservation and development of culture, in particular the Declaration of the Principles of International Culture Cooperation proclaimed on 4 November 1966 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its fourteenth session,³

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,⁴

Recalling that, as stated in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, contained in the annex to its resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, States have the duty to cooperate with one another, irrespective of the differences in their political, economic and social systems, in the various spheres of international relations, in the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and in the

¹ Resolution 217 A (III).

² See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

³ See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Fourteenth Session, Paris, 1966, Resolutions*.

⁴ A/68/277.

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elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and all forms of religious intolerance,

Welcoming the adoption, by its resolution 56/6 of 9 November 2001, of the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations,

Welcoming also the contribution of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 8 September 2001, the Durban Review Conference, held in Geneva from 20 to 24 April 2009, and the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, held on 22 September 2011, to the promotion of respect for cultural diversity,

Welcoming further the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,⁵ together with its Action Plan,⁶ adopted on 2 November 2001 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-first session, in which member States invited the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to cooperate with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the promotion of the principles set forth in the Declaration and its Action Plan, with a view to enhancing the synergy of actions in favour of cultural diversity,

Recalling the Ministerial Meeting on Human Rights and Cultural Diversity of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Tehran on 3 and 4 September 2007,

Reaffirming that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, and that, while the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Expressing concern over the adverse impacts of lack of respect for and recognition of cultural diversity on human rights, justice, friendship and the fundamental right to development,

Recognizing that cultural diversity and the pursuit of cultural development by all peoples and nations are a source of mutual enrichment for the cultural life of humankind,

Recognizing also the contribution that diverse cultures have been making to the development and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Taking into account that a culture of peace actively fosters non-violence and respect for human rights and strengthens solidarity among peoples and nations and dialogue between cultures,

⁵ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-first Session, Paris, 15 October-3 November 2001*, vol. I and corrigendum, *Resolutions*, chap. V, resolution 25, annex I.

⁶ *Ibid.*, annex II.

Reaffirming that discriminatory treatment against different cultures and religions is detrimental to the principle of the equality of human beings,

Recognizing that all cultures and civilizations share a common set of universal values,

Recognizing also that the promotion of the rights of indigenous people and their cultures and traditions will contribute to the respect for and observance of cultural diversity among all peoples and nations,

Considering that tolerance of cultural, ethnic, religious and linguistic diversities, as well as dialogue among and within civilizations, is essential for peace, understanding and friendship among individuals and people of different cultures and nations of the world, while manifestations of cultural prejudice, intolerance and xenophobia towards different cultures and religions generate hatred, violence and extremism among peoples and nations throughout the world,

Recognizing in each culture a dignity and value that deserve recognition, respect and preservation, and convinced that, in their rich variety and diversity, and in the reciprocal influences that they exert on one another, all cultures form part of the common heritage belonging to all humankind,

Convinced that the promotion of cultural pluralism and tolerance towards and dialogue among various cultures and civilizations would contribute to the efforts of all peoples and nations to enrich their cultures and traditions by engaging in a mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and intellectual, moral and material achievements,

Acknowledging the diversity of the world, recognizing that all cultures and civilizations contribute to the enrichment of humankind, acknowledging the importance of respect and understanding for religious and cultural diversity throughout the world, and, in order to promote international peace and security, committing itself to advancing human welfare, freedom and progress everywhere, as well as to encouraging tolerance, respect, dialogue and cooperation among different cultures, civilizations and peoples,

1. *Affirms* the importance for all peoples and nations to hold, develop and preserve their cultural heritage and traditions in a national and international atmosphere of peace, tolerance and mutual respect;

2. *Emphasizes* the important contribution of culture to development and the achievement of national development objectives and internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

3. *Welcomes* the adoption on 8 September 2000 of the United Nations Millennium Declaration,⁷ in which Member States consider, inter alia, that tolerance is one of the fundamental values essential to international relations in the twenty-first century and that it should include the active promotion of a culture of peace and dialogue among civilizations, with human beings respecting one another in all their diversity of belief, culture and language, neither fearing nor repressing differences within and between societies but cherishing them as a precious asset of humanity;

⁷ Resolution 55/2.

4. *Recognizes* the right of everyone to take part in cultural life and to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications;
5. *Affirms* that the international community should strive to respond to the challenges and opportunities posed by globalization in a manner that ensures respect for the cultural diversity of all;
6. *Expresses its determination* to prevent and mitigate cultural homogenization in the context of globalization, through increased intercultural exchange guided by the promotion and protection of cultural diversity;
7. *Affirms* that intercultural dialogue essentially enriches the common understanding of human rights and that the benefits to be derived from the encouragement and development of international contacts and cooperation in the cultural fields are important;
8. *Welcomes* the recognition at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance of the necessity of respecting and maximizing the benefits of diversity within and among all nations in working together to build a harmonious and productive future by putting into practice and promoting values and principles such as justice, equality and non-discrimination, democracy, fairness and friendship, tolerance and respect within and among communities and nations, in particular through public information and educational programmes to raise awareness and understanding of the benefits of cultural diversity, including programmes in which the public authorities work in partnership with international and non-governmental organizations and other sectors of civil society;
9. *Emphasizes* that dialogue among religions, cultures and civilizations on the basis of equal dignity should be enhanced, through supporting efforts made at the international level towards reducing confrontation, suppressing xenophobia and promoting respect for diversity, and in that regard also emphasizes that States should oppose all attempts at uniculturalism or the imposition of particular models of social or cultural systems and promote dialogue among civilizations, a culture of peace and interfaith dialogue, which will contribute towards peace, security and development;
10. *Welcomes* the activities of the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for Human Rights and Cultural Diversity in Tehran, and acknowledges the important role that the Centre plays in the promotion of the universality of all human rights as well as their realization;
11. *Recognizes* that respect for cultural diversity and the cultural rights of all enhances cultural pluralism, contributing to a wider exchange of knowledge and understanding of cultural background, advancing the application and enjoyment of universally accepted human rights throughout the world and fostering stable, friendly relations among peoples and nations worldwide;
12. *Emphasizes* that the promotion of cultural pluralism and tolerance at the national, regional and international levels is important for enhancing respect for cultural rights and cultural diversity;
13. *Also emphasizes* that tolerance and respect for diversity facilitate the universal promotion and protection of human rights, including gender equality and the enjoyment of all human rights by all, and underlines the fact that tolerance and respect for cultural diversity and the universal promotion and protection of human rights are mutually supportive;

14. *Urges* all actors on the international scene to build an international order based on inclusion, justice, equality and equity, human dignity, mutual understanding and promotion of and respect for cultural diversity and universal human rights, and to reject all doctrines of exclusion based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

15. *Calls upon* States, relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations to support and embark on intercultural initiatives on human rights in order to promote all human rights, thereby enriching their universality;

16. *Urges* States to ensure that their political and legal systems reflect the multicultural diversity within their societies and, where necessary, to improve democratic institutions so that they are more fully participatory and avoid marginalization and exclusion of, and discrimination against, specific sectors of society;

17. *Calls upon* States, international organizations and United Nations agencies, and invites civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to recognize and promote respect for cultural diversity for the purpose of advancing the objectives of peace, development and universally accepted human rights;

18. *Stresses* the necessity of freely using the media and new information and communications technologies to create the conditions for a renewed dialogue among cultures and civilizations;

19. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to bear in mind fully the issues raised in the present resolution in the course of its activities for the promotion and protection of human rights;

20. *Also requests* the Office of the High Commissioner, and invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to support initiatives aimed at promoting intercultural dialogue on human rights;

21. *Urges* relevant international organizations to conduct studies on how respect for cultural diversity contributes to fostering international solidarity and cooperation among all nations;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including efforts undertaken at the national, regional and international levels regarding the recognition and importance of cultural diversity among all peoples and nations in the world and taking into account the views of Member States, relevant United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, and to submit the report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

23. *Decides* to continue consideration of the question at its seventieth session under the sub-item entitled "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

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